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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SOVIET UNION

1. Turkish Foreign Minister's views on Soviet foreign policy: During the recent visit to Ankara of Secretary Pace, the Turkish Foreign Minister expressed the view that Stalin will never launch a general war because of his respect for American industrial power, his unwillingness to risk his reputation and accomplishments, and because "he is an old man and old men are conservative." He warned, however, that Stalin's successor might not be bound by these deterrents and might start a war in order to protect his position or to establish his reputation.

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In conclusion, the Foreign Minister said he did not anticipate an open change in Soviet policy toward Korea in the next six to eight months, but that they might continue a holding action. He considers that the only thing the Russians respect is power. (TS Ankara 256, 23 Aug 52)

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

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2. Iranian views on recent Tudeh strength and activities: Tudeh strength in Tehran is estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000 supporters, [REDACTED] Cadres of the Tudeh can, under favorable conditions, "lead" about 90 percent of organized labor. [REDACTED] FOR CRITICAL SECURITY REASONS this report may not be further distributed within the United States or beyond the border of the United States without the express permission of the releasing office.)

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Comment: Tudeh front candidates in Tehran polled 29,000 votes in the 1951 parliamentary elections. On this basis, the party strength in the capital has been estimated at about 30,000.

While the Tudeh has increased its activities among labor, there is no evidence that it controls a large number of the organized workers who compose only about one-third of Iran's industrial force. Tudeh has made inroads, however, in the oil fields and at the Tehran granary.

3. Turkey criticizes British Middle East defense proposals:
The Turkish Foreign Ministry has complained to the American Ambassador that the British proposal for a Middle East Defense Organization contains no clear definition of each member's commitments. It emphasized that Turkey is not trying to block establishment of such an organization, since it is vitally concerned with defense of the area. However, the Turkish Parliament could not accept any proposal in which Turkey's responsibilities were not clearly defined.

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Comment: The Turks desire to participate fully in Western defense planning, but believe that in the area of the Middle East the cooperation of the Arab states also ought to be solicited. There is still no evidence that the Arabs would join the Middle East Defense Organization.

WESTERN EUROPE

4. British and French views on reply to latest Soviet note:
British Foreign Office officials believe that the latest Soviet note on Germany advances nothing new, and that the Western reply should reaffirm the view that an investigation of election conditions must precede the discussion of a German peace treaty or the status of an all-German government.

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(S S/S London 1064, 25 Aug 52; S S/S
Paris 1166, 22 Aug 52)

Comment: These French and British reactions indicate that the exchange of notes will continue, and that the Western reply will probably seek to keep alive the chances of negotiation with the Soviet Union.

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